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PROGRAM Nightwatch

STATION WDVM-TV
CBS Network

DATE April 25, 1983 2:00 A.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Nazi War Criminals

FELICIA JETER: The search continues for hundreds of Nazi war criminals and collaborators believed living in this country. The OSI, the Office of Special Investigations of the Justice Department, is now working on a case that could have startling implications. The State Department may have illegally brought ex-Nazis into the United States during the height of the Cold War.

Recently, Mary Jo West spoke about that possibility with John Loftus, who spent two years as an OSI prosecutor.

MARY JO WEST: How widespread was this problem in postwar America, with Nazis living in our country?

JOHN LOFTUS: The group that I studied, there was systematic recruitment of the entire Nazi puppet government of one occupied country, Byelorussia. And I went through the classified files, there were traces of similar recruitment programs for virtually every organization of collaborators behind the Iron Curtain.

WEST: Who or, namely, what department was responsible for their being here?

LOFTUS: The State Department. It had its own covert agency, the rival of the CIA. It was called the Office of Policy Coordination. Very few people have ever heard of it. But between 1948 and 1952, they had virtual carte blanche for recruiting intelligence assets to fight the Communists.

WEST: Who headed the agency, and what were they really after?